

## Against the Grain

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# From the Reference Desk--Reviews of Reference Titles

Tom Gilson

*Against the Grain*, [gilsont@cofc.edu](mailto:gilsont@cofc.edu)

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# From the Reference Desk

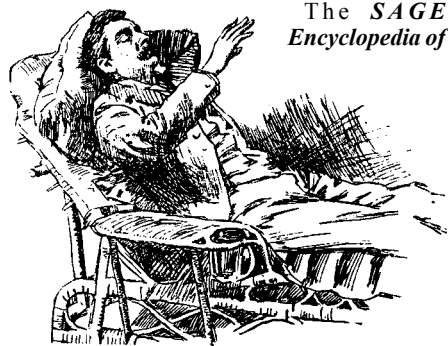
by **Tom Gilson** (Associate Editor, *Against the Grain*, and Head of Reference Emeritus, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29401) <gilson@cofc.edu>

The *SAGE Encyclopedia of Pharmacology and Society* (2016, 9781483350004, \$650) is another set in the publisher's collection of cross-disciplinary reference works. The focus in these four volumes is on the pharmaceutical industry and where it intersects with socioeconomic, legal, and ethical concerns. Needless to say, these are important issues that can benefit from the type of broad based, serious discussion that a scholarly subject encyclopedia can afford.

There are nearly 800 signed articles in this set dealing with topics ranging from drug companies to the various branches of pharmacology and from coverage of specific drugs to pharmacological issues as diverse as fluoridation, blood doping, vaccination, and drug labeling. There are also a number of entries that look at business factors inherent in the industry, relevant laws and regulations, specific public health issues, not to mention ethical issues from the abuse of prescription drugs to lethal injection to the Tuskegee experiment. Naturally, there are articles that deal with pharmacology and its social history including those on smallpox eradication, traditional and herbal medicines, patient rights, and the history of nutritional supplements. A number of entries also look at the research end of the industry, as well as its infrastructure, noting various university programs and data sources in addition to numerous institutes, societies and government agencies.

The coverage offered in these four volumes is comprehensive and thorough and the information provided in the articles is factual, straightforward and written in a style suitable for both undergraduates and the informed lay reader. Topic treatment is objective and includes both positive and critical observations as merited. Value added features are what one would expect from a high quality work of reference. A chronology introduces volume one while a glossary and appendix of primary sources and useful statistics rounds out the final volume. Each entry has a bibliography and finding aids include an alphabetical list of entries and a very helpful Reader's Guide to entries by subject category that is contained in all four volumes. In addition, there is an easy to use general index to specific topics and subtopics.

The *SAGE Encyclopedia of*



*Pharmacology and Society* is also available electronically via the SAGE Knowledge database. As such, it can be searched individually or as part of the overall database to included information from other SAGE sources that your library may own.



The full text of SAGE Knowledge can be searched in either basic or advanced mode and both modes allow for Boolean logic, the “\*” truncation, and the “?” wildcard symbol. Basic searches can be broadly limited by content type, works and sections, availability, subject, publication date, suggested key-

word and academic level. Advanced searching employs a more detailed template that allows for adding more search boxes, as well as the capability to do more than full text searching. Searches by title, abstract, keyword, DOI, ISBN are enabled. There is also a more sophisticated ability to narrow and focus by person, publisher, subject, product, and document type. Both modes allow for searching SAGE Video collections and SAGE Business Cases as well.

Searching within the actual encyclopedia is more limited. The initial screen defaults to the A-Z list of entries and there is a basic search box immediately available as well as the ability to click and go directly to entries alphabetically. There is no advanced search capability but both the Readers Guide and the subject index from the print version are available with links the relevant text. In addition, both the front and back matter that appear in the print set are available.

The *SAGE Encyclopedia of Pharmacology and Society*, both print and online, is another high quality resource from SAGE Reference. It is a unique contribution that deals with a very complex topic of increasing importance and does so in a serious, informed and comprehensive fashion. Academic libraries as well as those supporting medical and nursing programs would do well to give it serious consideration.

*America in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History* (2016, 9780684325057, \$458) is a new release from **Charles Scribner's Sons**, part of **Macmillan Reference USA**. This two volume set updates and complements the 3rd edition of the classic *Dictionary of American History* (2003, 9780684314150, \$1904). Edited by **Edward J. Blum**, et al. this new reference attempts to add a transnational perspective to a work that numerous libraries already have on their shelves. This new work looks at Amer-

ica's global influence, while simultaneously examining how America has been influenced by its interaction on the world stage.

In the nearly 500 entries in this work, obvious efforts are made to keep the emphasis on the global and international perspective of the topics covered. As you would expect, there are articles covering key topics in major areas of study like economics and business, law and legislation, politics, religion, the military and defense, and arts, culture, and literature. In addition, there are entries that focus on unique aspects of sensitive issues like immigration, globalization, human and civil rights, race, imperialism, and slavery and the slave trade. Specific essays discuss the importance of noteworthy figures while others delve into the ways individual countries, continents, and regions have influenced, and been influenced by the U.S. The essays are written for an undergraduate audience providing useful facts and historical background in an academic, but accessible fashion. As noted above, the treatment of each topic is grounded within a larger transnational context showing the U.S. and the world as integral to each other. This approach is interwoven in the text of the article and gives the reader an obvious sense of America's role and its varied impacts. Each entry had a valuable bibliography and helpful “see also” references linking related entries. Black and white photos and illustration are interspersed throughout the text. A comprehensive general index is provided that makes finding specific information straightforward and relatively easy.



*With America in the World, 1776 to the Present... Mr. Blum*, along with his fellow editors and contributors, offers students a clear sense of America and the double-edged impact of its ever increasing role in world affairs. The entries in this set show how the United States and the other nations of the world are inextricably linked by our global interaction.

In offering this perspective, they have added a realistic reappraisal as well as an update and supplement to a set that has proven to be standard since originally being published in 1940. The new set should stand side by side with the *Dictionary of American History* in academic library reference collections supporting American studies.

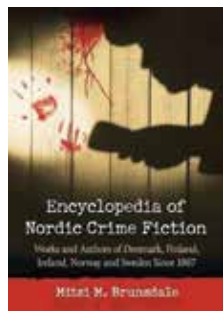
**McFarland** has just published a title that could find multiple audiences. The *Encyclopedia of Nordic Crime Fiction* (2016, 978-0786475360, \$65) by **Mitzi M. Brunsdale** has the potential to become part of both reference and circulating collections. And given the explosion in popularity of authors like **Stieg Larson**, **Jo Nesbo**, **Karin Fossum**, and

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**Henning Mankell**, it may also find its way on to the personal shelves of numerous crime fiction fans.

However, make no mistake, **Ms. Brunsdale's** book is a serious work of scholarship. She started this project with a growing sense that Nordic crime fiction was steeped in societal tensions caused by factors like an aging population, soaring immigration and a failure to assimilate, increasing crime rates, and bloated bureaucracies. A look at her encyclopedia bears those suspicions out.



The *Encyclopedia of Nordic Crime Fiction* focuses on contemporary authors writing since 1967 and employs a basic organizational scheme. Each of the five Nordic countries

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden has their own section starting with an introduction. **Ms. Brunsdale** uses the introduction to provide a "historical-cultural context" as well as to showcase the main issues that have confronted each society and how crime fiction has reflected them. This introduction is followed by annual lists of award winning fiction and a parallel chronology of developments in the literature and corresponding world events. Each section is then divided into author entries arranged alphabetically consisting of an essay describing the author's contribution to the genre followed by a list of his/her novels. Both famous and obscure authors are discussed with many, but not all, having been translated into English.

Obviously, the essays discussing each author are key components of this reference. They provide basic biographical information as well as a discussion of the author's more influential works. Entries end with a list of the author's novels, awards, and an author Website address if available. Unfortunately, the entries are not followed by bibliographies. However, there is a work cited section at the end of the book divided by country that helps compensate and which will be of value to those seeking to do further research. Providing additional scholarly value are the introductions beginning each section. They are comprehensive essays that fulfill **Ms. Brunsdale's** intent of providing historical-cultural context with thorough discussions of how the genre interacts with and mirrors that context.

As noted earlier, the *Encyclopedia of Nordic Crime Fiction* will appeal to both libraries and to individual fans of the genre. Admittedly, this is a scholarly treatment of the topic that will primarily be of interest to academic libraries. However, given the popularity of Nordic crime fiction, a number of public libraries will also be interested. It is appropriate for either reference or circulation collections and given the reasonable price may find its way into both.

## Extra Servings

**SAGE Reference** has a few new titles planned:

- The *SAGE Encyclopedia of Marriage, Family, and Couples Counseling* (Oct., 2016, 9781483369556, \$650) is a four-volume reference. It is edited by **Jon Carlson** and **Shannon B. Dermer** and is intended for "researchers seeking to broaden their knowledge of this vast and diffuse field...," this Encyclopedia provides readers with a fully comprehensive and accessible reference to aid in understanding the full scope and diversity of theories, approaches and techniques and how they address various life events within the unique dynamics of families, couples and related interpersonal relationships..."
- The *SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives* (Oct., 2016, 9781483359892, \$650) also comes in at four volumes. Edited by **Paul Joseph** this work looks at war "through the lens of history and military science, focusing on big events, big battles, and big generals. By contrast, *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspective* views war through the lens of the social sciences, looking at the causes, processes and effects of war and drawing from a vast group of fields such as communication and mass media, economics, political science and law, psychology and sociology..."
- The *SAGE International Encyclopedia of Travel and Tourism* (June, 2017, 9781483368948, \$650) is another four-volume set. It is edited by **Linda L. Lowry** and "in over 600 entries ...examines the business of tourism around the world paying particular attention to the social, economic, environmental, and policy issues at play. The book examines global, regional, national, and local issues including transportation, infrastructure, the environment, and business promotion..."

**CQ Press** has some upcoming and recently released titles:

- Edited by **Heather L. Kerrigan** *Historic Documents of 2015* (July, 2016, 9781506333519, \$215), like the other annuals in this series, covers "60 to 70 events with well over 100 documents from the previous year, from official reports and surveys to speeches from leaders and opinion makers, to court cases, legislation, testimony, ..."
- *CQ Almanac 2015* (Sept., 2016, 9781506333175, \$575) is the latest version of the well-respected annual "that chronicles and analyzes the major bills brought before Congress

in the previous year. Published each summer, this non-partisan reference work offers exclusive insight into the forces that drove action on legislation..."

**Salem Press** has added a couple of new titles:

- The *Critical Survey of Young Adult Literature* (April, 2016, 978-1-61925-971-3, \$185; eBook: 9781619259720, \$185) discusses "representative young adult works that form today's canon for academic coursework and library collection development, with over 300 essays of ... analysis. This collection includes classic young adult titles like *The Outsiders*, popular series like *Divergent*, plus a variety of significant themes, film adaptations, and other sections important to the popular young adult category..."
- *Great Lives from History: American Women* (May 2016, 978-1-61925-944-7, \$395; eBook, 9781619259454, \$395) is a three-volume set that is a "new addition to the Great Lives from History series that features over 700 essays on women from the seventeenth through the early twenty-first centuries. Many individuals included in this multi-volume set have never been covered in this series before, notable for their work in such fields as politics, civil rights, literature, education, journalism, science, business, and sports..."

**ABC-CLIO Greenwood** also has a couple of new titles:

- The *Spanish Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia* (July, 2016, 978-1-61069-421-6, \$198; eBook, 978-1-61069-422-3, for pricing email <custserv@abc-clio.com>) is a two-volume set edited by **H. Micheal Tarver** and **Emily Slape**. It "includes some 180 entries that cover such topics as the caste system, dynastic rivalries, economics, major political events and players, and wars of independence. The entries provide students with essential information about the people, things, institutions, places, and events central to the history of the empire..."
- The *Encyclopedia of Stateless Nations: Ethnic and National Groups around the World* (Aug., 2016, 978-1-61069-953-2, \$100; eBook, 978-1-61069-954-9, for pricing email <custserv@abc-clio.com>) is in its 2nd Edition. Authored by **James B. Minahan**, this book "provides an extensive update to **Greenwood's Encyclopedia of the Stateless Nations: Ethnic and National Groups around the World** that was published more than a decade earlier. Each ethnic group receives

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Column Editor: **Donna Jacobs** (Retired, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC 29425)  
<donna.jacobs55@gmail.com>

**D**electable summer vegetables hang from stems and vines in the local community and backyard gardens. Thoughts of tomato sandwiches, fresh salsa, cool gazpacho, vegetable lasagnas, tomato pies, and fresh fruit compotes make the mouth water and the stomach growl. Memories of farmer's markets, roadside stands, and u-pick 'em farms are part of my summer nostalgia. With the revival of the local farmer's markets, interest in locally grown produce and community gardens, these fresh summer vegetables experiences are coming full circle.

Ducking into the main branch of the **Charleston County Library** on a hot summer afternoon takes me back to another summer activity, completing a reading list. How many of those books could I tackle in the summer? But on this summer afternoon, I'm only after one book, one authored by a **Nobel Laureate** and one I can add to my "Read" list. Perusing the stacks I come across **Patrick White's** books and the title *The Hanging Garden* leaps out at me. I pick this one. On the back cover — "Praise for **Patrick White**" includes a comment from **Peter Cameron**, author of *Coral Glynn*. "**Patrick White** re-creates the world by depicting the life we think we know in an entirely original and luminous way. Everything about *The Hanging Garden*, his final novel, is thrilling, consummate, and revelatory.... A rare and wonderful gift to **White** devotees and a perfect introduction for new readers." Seems like a good pairing with a vine-ripened tomato sandwich.

I am soon aware of how *The Hanging Garden* is a real unique choice. From the short synopsis on the front book flap, I learn that this "novel" was published posthumously. It was among some of his last written works. It was revised. It was only a third complete. It was never supposed to be published according to **White's** instructions to his executors. It has a simple plot. It is set in Australia during World War II. It is about a boy, Gilbert, and a girl, Eirene, who are become "reffos" — Aussie slang for unwelcomed war refugees. It is written from a shifting point of view. It has no chapters, only spaces to indicate a pause. It is full of magical prose telling a tough story. It is a delicious verbal garden for a hot summer read.

**Patrick White** won the **1973 Nobel Prize in Literature** "for an epic and psychological narrative art which has introduced a new continent into literature," amazingly accurate description for this unfinished, unpublished manuscript. Born in Knightsbridge, London in the year 1912, **White** was only six months old when his Australian parents returned to that continent. **White** developed asthma at an early age, which limited normal childhood activities but allowed his creative spark to grow. He spent most of his academic time in England. However, prior to his time at **Cambridge** he returned

to Australia. His family being people of the land, he needed to find out if this was something he could embrace. He continued to work on his word craft during this time. Ultimately he returned to London studying French and German literature at **King's College Cambridge**. A love of the theater, a few early publications, world travel, time in military service during the war, discovering his sexual orientation and life partner — all created the situation for **White** to return to Australia. Initially, his works were considered "unreadable," later **Nobel Prize** worthy.

Now a little taste of Eirene's introduction into her new world:

"The house has become stationary now. Will the boy appear round a corner or through a wall to challenge my ownership? Because it is already mine. It smells of mushrooms and dust, it is alive with the thoughts I am putting into it. Doorknobs are plasticine to my hand. I could climb into this cupboard and mingle with a dead man's clothes if they didn't smell so nasty-dead.

The house is large enough to run through. Everything shakes, like the earthquake that year on the island, only the drawers do not slither out, lolling like wooden tongues. But a sudden stillness. I am standing in this great room protruding as far as the edge of a cliff. It has been waiting for me: not so still, it is tremulous. I paddle in pools of pale light in the gritty carpet. Are they traps? Is the room a trap? And outside, the suckers of each tree reaching out from the Royal Gardens which Great Aunt Cleone Tipaldou still refers to as the *National Park*.....

Soon there will be the garden alone. If only you could take the form of this red thread of a centipede or beetle that might have crawled out of the dregs of an inkwell to claw and scratch and burrow and hide amongst what is not just rottenness but change to change. To become part of this thick infested garden so swallowed up where Mamma suffers. You could no longer want either house or garden for your own. Only to burrow. Only this other enemy would come, and crush the beetle out of you. Crush you as a girl too, if you did not resist.

As you get up on your uncomfortable heels, the garden which is yours, in your nostrils and under your nails, glooms and shimmers with whatever is to happen. The gate squeals — it is Gilbert Horsfall, socks around his ankles, the battered case with very little joggling round inside it, returning to dispute your ownership?

Ready yourself to kick him in the shins when the pins and needles have died like so many insects in what are still your legs." 🌿



## From the Reference Desk from page 55

an alphabetically organized entry containing information such as alternate names, population figures, flag or flags, geography, history, culture, and languages..."

**MacMillan Reference** is publishing a new series of handbooks:

- **Religion: Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks** (Dec., 2016, 9780028663494, \$1700; eBook, 9780028663562, pricing available to registered website users) "is com-

posed of ten volumes (available individually) that serve undergraduate college students who have had little or no exposure to the study of religion, as well as the curious lay reader. Beginning with a primer volume, which introduces both the discipline and the topics of the remaining nine volumes, each handbook will usher the reader into a subfield of the study of religion, and explore fifteen to thirty topics in that subfield..."

**Gale** has published an update of a popular title:

- The *Gale Encyclopedia of Children's Health: Infancy Through*

*Adolescence*, (March, 2016, 9781410332752, \$950; eBook, 9781410332745, pricing available to registered website users) is now in its 3rd Edition. This latest version "is a completely updated edition that contains over 65 new entries with a total of 840 entries. The four-volume set provides in-depth coverage of pediatric diseases and disorders, along with issues related to physical and cognitive/behavioral development. It is an appropriate resource for parents, teachers, and allied health students..." 🌿